

### **Frequently Asked Questions (Option 1)**

Q: What is the maximum award size and duration for the Preliminary Technology Translation Plan (PTTP)?

A: The maximum award size from NSF is \$350,000 (of which \$50,000 is a supplement) for a maximum duration of 2 years.

Q: Can a PTTP be submitted without third-party investment?

A: Yes, third party investment is not required for PTTPs with a requested budget of up to \$150,000. However, for budget requests in excess of \$150,000, 1:1 third party investment is required.

Q: Are commitment letters from third-party investors required at the time of submission of PTTPs?

A: Yes, if the budget request exceeds \$150,000.

Q: What is the maximum award size and duration for the Final Technology Translation Plan (FTTP)?

A: The FTTP is a supplement to the PTTP award and is not to exceed \$50,000. The supplement as submitted is a Final Technology Translation Plan and the funds, in essence, are a reward for a well-prepared plan. There is not a prescribed maximum duration for the supplement but it should be at least 3 months as that is the targeted timeframe for the Technology Showcase.

Q: When is the FTTP due and is the presentation of the Final Technology Translation Plan (FTTP) to NSF staff to be held before or after submission of the FTTP supplement?

A: The FTTP is due within 18 months of the start date of the initial PTTP award. A few months after the due date of the supplement, PIs will be required (co-PIs are welcome but not required) to travel to NSF to present their plan to NSF staff and potential investors at the Technology Showcase (date/location TBD).

Q: What is the format of the proposed Technology Showcase?

A: A group of potential investors will be invited to NSF and the FTTP awardees will be asked to present their FTTP to the group. Time will be allowed for Q&A and one-on-one discussion between the PIs and the potential investors.

Q: Can an awardee attend and participate at the Technology Showcase if the Confidentiality Agreements are not all in place?

A: No.

Q: Can the investigator be from any discipline or is it confined to ENG only?

A: The PI must be a current or prior NSF awardee and the award can have been from any division of NSF; it is not limited to ENG awardees.

A: The intention of the award is to support PIs who do not have an established path to commercialization for their product. So, in this case, the PI would not be eligible for the award.

Q: I have previously produced a prototype for my product but need funds to write a business plan. Am I eligible to apply under this solicitation?

A: No. If the proposal is a funding request for only expenses associated with generating a Final Technology Translation Plan (i.e. no research), the proposal will not be accepted. This opportunity is to allow for "finishing" the research and preparing for commercialization.

Q: Up to 50% of the award can be subcontracted to a small business; can the subcontracted business also be a third party investor to the grant?

A: No, NSF does not intend to fund industrial research and development which this path would effectively permit.

Q: If I submit my proposal by the deadline of Feb 1, 2011, when can I expect the Technology Showcase to occur?

A: Assuming the proposal is awarded with a start date of May 1, 2011, the FTTP supplement would be due 18 months later; by Nov 1, 2012. If all awards have similar start dates, we would plan the Technology Showcase for February or March 2013.

Q: I have been a PI on an NSF award but I plan to submit a proposal on a different topic which is based on a discovery funded under an NSF STTR. Am I eligible for Option1?

A: While you are not prohibited from doing so since technically both eligibility criteria are met (you have been an NSF funded PI and the subject technology was derived from a discovery research project funded by NSF), this situation is not a good example of the spirit of the opportunity. With an AIR award, we hope to provide funds for the translation of basic research to commercialization for a PI who does not have a clear path to do so. In the case outlined above, funds have

already been obtained for technology transfer and commercialization through the STTR program.